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INTERIM REPORT

ON THE STATE OF

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

Horsham Rural District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health,
KENNETH N. MAWSON
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WEST SUSSEX NORTH-EASTERN COMBINED DISTRICT.

Health Department,
Comewell House,
North Street,
Horsham,
Sussex.

October, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Horsham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the District for the year 1943. For reasons with which the Council will now be familiar, the report is an abbreviated one. For reasons of national security, certain detailed information has been excluded in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but full statistics are available to any member of the Council who may require them.

I would draw your attention to the following points, as set out below:-

(1). Births and Deaths.

(a) There were 410 live births during the year. The figures for previous years were as follows:-

1938.....	285
1939.....	320
1940.....	309
1941.....	353
1942.....	377
1943.....	410

Owing to fluctuations in the figures for total population, the birth-rates give a more accurate picture.

The birth rates for these years are as follows:-

1938.....	12.76	per thousand.
1939.....	14.29	" "
1940.....	11.84	" "
1941.....	13.99	" "
1942.....	15.15	" "
1943.....	16.83	" "

The number of illegitimate births has tended to increase as shown:-

1938.....	14
1939.....	15
1940.....	9
1941.....	20
1942.....	25
1943.....	52

(b). The number of deaths during these years are shown below. The figures in brackets indicate the death rate.

1938.....	271	(12.13 per thousand).
1939.....	311	(13.15 " ").
1940.....	302	(11.96 " ").
1941.....	314	(12.44 " ").
1942.....	297	(11.94 " ").
1943.....	299	(12.28 " ").

(2). Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Reference to the table of notifications received, given in the body of the report, shows that the incidence of infectious disease remains low. It is a reason for satisfaction that these figures compare very favourably with the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war.

It will be noted that 3 cases of Diphtheria occurred. There was a minor outbreak of Measles, and 483 notifications were received in 1943. The disease was of a mild type. It is realised that the notification-rate in respect of both Measles and Whooping-Cough does not represent the true incidence of these diseases. Unfortunately many parents still regard them as trivial complaints and do not seek medical advice.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever during 1943 was rather above the average, 54 notifications being received during the year as against 45 during 1942.

(3). Diphtheria Immunization.

It was estimated that, at the end of 1943,

Diphtheria Immunization (Cont).

the percentage of children inoculated were 52% of those under 5 years, and 95% of those between 5 and 15 years.

Although satisfactory, these figures do not show any material improvement on those for the previous year. It is sincerely to be hoped that the immunization percentage can be maintained, and even improved. New methods of propaganda are now being used, in cooperation with the County Council, particular attention being paid to the younger age group. Only by continued effort, including the use of the new "greeting cards" sent on a child's first birthday and regular house-to-house visiting, will it be possible to maintain the high level reached.

(4). Scabies, Tuberculosis & Venereal Diseases.

Notes dealing with these matters will be found in the body of the report.

Although every effort has been made to maintain the routine work of the Department, it will be noted that there was a reduction in the number of visits paid in connection with Dairies and Cowsheds etc. The position of Additional Sanitary Inspector has remained vacant since the suspension of Mr. Colborne in 1940, and serious inroads on the time of the Senior Inspector have been made as a result of his duties as Surveyor.

There can be no doubt that the present staff is inadequate to cope with the work of a Rural District of this size.

I would like to acknowledge the conscientious service of all members of the staff of the Health Department, and the cooperation of the Chief Officers of the Council. I am grateful to the Chairman & Members of the General Purposes Committee, with whom my work is particularly connected, for their support and consideration.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

F.W. Lawson.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Rural Authority.

(a). Medical.

Kenneth N. Mawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, part time with other districts in the Sanitary Combine, and, as Assistant County Medical Officer, School Medical Inspector for the area.

(b). Sanitary Inspectors.

V. Bartrim, A.R.S.I., Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor under Building Bye-laws. Housing and Meat Inspector and Petrol and Carbide Inspector.

L.J.B. Baker, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector. Housing and Meat Inspector and Petrol and Carbide Inspector.

(1). STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1943.

Area (Acres).....	79,970
Population at Census, 1931.....	20,710
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books....	6,595
Rateable Value.....	£168,850
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£689

(2). SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district is largely agricultural in character with a few large country houses, but a certain amount of ribbon development had taken place around Crawley and Horsham in the years prior to the outbreak of war. There are two brickworks and a few small factories.

(3). EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate...	358	177	181	)Birth Rate =
(Illegitimate.	52	24	28	) 16.83
Still Births.....	14	8	3	)Rate per 1,000 Total Births = 34.14
Deaths.....	299	155	144	Death Rate = 12.28

England & Wales Birth Rate. 16.5 Death Rate = 12.1

West Sussex Rural Districts Birth Rate = 18.51
Death Rate = 13.05

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	..... 0.00
Other Puerperal Causes.	0	..... 0.00

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	26.83
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.	25.11
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.	38.46

(There were 9 Legitimate, and 2 Illegitimate, Deaths).

(Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales..... 49).

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping-Cough (all ages)...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	1

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease.....	90
Cancer.....	51
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	39
Pneumonia.....	18
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	8

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during 1943. The figures in brackets indicate the corresponding number for the previous year.

Diphtheria.....	3	(-)
Scarlet Fever.....	54	(45)
Whooping Cough.....	7	(36)
Measles.....	483	(61)
Erysipelas.....	3	(1)
Pneumonia.....	7	(13)
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	4	(4)
Dysentery.....	1	(3)
C.S.F.....	1	(2)

Of the cases of Diphtheria notified, one was an adult. Both the other patients were children; - one, having contracted the infection outside the area, was diagnosed on arrival in the district, while the other, a local child, had not been inoculated.

No cases of any disease of the Typhoid-Paratyphoid group occurred.

The Council makes an annual grant to the local Nursing Association towards the cost of provision of nursing for Measles and Pneumonia.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

The number of cases added to the Register during the year.. 28

Pulmonary Males...	9	Non-pulmonary Males...	7
Females...	5	Females...	7
	14		14

There were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis; 6 Pulmonary (3 Male, 3 Female) and 2 Non-Pulmonary (Female).

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1943 was 194.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Regular sessions continued as in previous years. Monthly clinics were held at Horsham Health Centre and at Crawley First Aid Post, and in addition immunization was carried out at the village schools.

In addition, however, a certain number of children are inoculated privately, by their family doctors, and it is thus difficult to make an accurate assessment of the percentage protected.

Regular returns are made, each six months, to the Ministry of Health, of the number of children inoculated. On the 31st December, 1943, it was estimated that 52% of children under 5 years, and 95% of those between 5 - 15 yrs. had been immunized. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 48% and 95%. It must be remembered that the optimum figure for the younger group would be 80%, as inoculation is not carried out until a child reaches his first birthday.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Full particulars were given, in the last Annual Report, of the arrangements made for the treatment of these conditions. Women and children are dealt with at Tan Cottage Sick Bay, and adult males receive treatment at the local Military Hospital. This scheme has worked satisfactorily during the year under review. A few patients, mainly symptomless contacts, have received home treatment.

The total number of patients and contacts treated during the year was :-

(a). Tan Cottage Sick Bay:- 52 In-Patients.
231 Out-Patients.

(b). Base Hospital (Males). 11.

(c). Home Treatment. 67.

(d). St. Richards Hospital, Chichester. 5 In-Patients.

It will be seen that there has been an increase in the total number of treatments given; i.e. 366 as compared with 276 in 1942.

Treatment of Scabies & Verminous Conditions (Cont).

It will thus be seen that there has been a rise, during the year, in the number of cases brought to the notice of the Department. This does not necessarily prove an increase in the local incidence of the disease, as the facilities provided by the Council have become better known to both practitioners and the public.

It will also be noted that there has been a considerable reduction in the number receiving In-Patient treatment. It has been found possible to effect this economy without any loss of efficiency in treatment.

There can be little doubt that if the general population were to practise the elementary precaution of regular ablution, scabies would become a much less serious problem.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Routine bacteriological work throughout the year was again referred to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Christ's Hospital.

The total number of specimens was 974, made up as follows:-

	Nose & Throat Swabs.	Faeces & Urine.	Blood.	Sputum.
Jan. - March.	199	21	7	8
April - June.	69	17	7	6
July - Sept.	71	19	2	5
Oct. - Dec.	64	13	1	4

	Waters.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
Jan. - March.	114	15	364
April - June.	68	3	170
July - Sept.	171	11	279
Oct. - Dec.	70	9	161

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Accommodation for Infectious Disease.

There has been no change in the arrangements whereby patients are admitted to Swandean Isolation Hospital, Worthing. By agreement with the Corporation of the Borough of Worthing, eight beds are reserved for cases from the Horsham Rural District.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during the period ending 31st December, 1943:-

Swandean Isolation Hospital.		East Grinstead Is. Hospital.	
S. Fever.....	37	Diphtheria.....	1
Diphtheria.....	1	Measles.....	1
Earlswood Isolation Hospital.		**Royal Alexandra Hosp. Brighton.**	
Diphtheria.....	1	C.S.M.....	1

Ganavan Sick-Bay, Cocking.

Measles..... 5

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1). TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richards Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital now at Bracknell in Berks., or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants, (for children).

(2). MATERNITY.

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

(a). Brighton Hospital for Women.
(b). Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.
(c). Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.
(d). Improvised Maternity Homes at Haslemere, Hindhead and Woking.

(3). SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(4). VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the County Scheme, regular Clinics are held at Worthing and Portsmouth.

During the year, additional facilities have been made available locally both to male and female patients. Drs. Morgan and De Lacey now carry out this work, in their normal surgery hours, on behalf of the County Council, under the new "General Practitioner Scheme."

(5). GENERAL.

St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, administered by the Public Health Committee of the County Council, takes cases from the area not considered suitable for admission to the General Hospital.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

Horsham General Hospital.

The accommodation at this hospital having been extended, under the Emergency Medical Services, at the outbreak of war, 49 beds are provided. In addition, 34 additional E.M.S. beds are available at the Holbrook Park Annexe.

During the last five years, the Hospital has been fortunate in obtaining the services of a number of eminent consultants (in general medicine and surgery and the various specialities), the majority of whom are on the Honorary Medical Staff of the larger London hospitals. This has, of course, proved of great benefit to the local population, many of whom would have been obliged to travel to London for further advice.

The Hon. Consulting Staff hold regular Out-Patient sessions, and, by agreement with the County Council, the Health Centre adjoining has been placed at the disposal of the Hospital for use as an Out-Patient Department, when not in use for County work.

The Crawley & District Hospital has accommodation for 28 patients. A modern X'ray plant was installed during the year.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Health Centre in Hurst Road, adjoining the Horsham General Hospital, is under the control of the County Education Committee. Special sessions are held for Minor Ailments, Vision Testing, Diphtheria Immunisation, and the treatment of Orthopaedic Defects, and a School Dental Surgeon is in attendance.

In addition Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics are held in the building, and there is a weekly Tuberculosis Dispensary. As mentioned previously, the Clinic premises at present serve as an Out-Patient Department of Horsham Hospital.

There is in addition a small Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Leechpool Lane, Roffey, where Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics are held.

By permission of the Rural District Council, a fortnightly Minor Ailment Clinic for school-children is held at the First-Aid Post in Crawley. In addition, this accommodation is utilised by the School Dental Surgeon when treating children from the Crawley Schools.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a). The Morris Ambulance, jointly owned by the Urban and Rural District Councils, and used for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases, was purchased in 1927. Although maintained in fairly good running order, the vehicle is rather out of date.

The Caretaker of the Urban Council Offices acts as attendant for this ambulance. It is therefore necessary on occasions to arrange for the Swandean Hospital Ambulance, with a nurse in attendance, to collect cases where the patient is a woman, or a child acutely ill.

(b). For the collection and transfer of cases of non-infectious sickness and accident in the parts of the Rural District around the town of Horsham, the Horsham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade maintains a vehicle at their Headquarters in Park Street, a resident driver being employed. The duties of attendant are undertaken by the Nursing Division of the Brigade. No grant is made by the Council in connection with this work.

The town of Crawley and the surrounding district are served by a vehicle provided by the Crawley Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Crawley Nursing Division of the Brigade provide the necessary attendants.

(c)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

I am indebted to Mr. S. T. Cox, the Council's Water Engineer, for the following comments:-

"A sufficient supply exists at the Pumping Stations, of good quality water which unfortunately contains an excess of iron. This, however, is being dealt with at the Nutbourne Station, from which about 50% of the supply is obtained, by Candy Iron Removal plants. The results from this station are quite satisfactory. At the Smock Alley and Washington Stations the water is pumped direct to consumers untreated; complaints are received on account of the iron, but work is already in progress at the Smock Alley site on a duplicate plant as that of Nutbourne. For Washington the matter is in the hands of the Consulting Engineers."

In addition to the sources mentioned above, additional supplies were taken for the north-eastern part of the District, including Crawley, from the East Surrey Water Company and the mid-Sussex Joint Water Board.

A number of complaints were received from consumers on the higher levels regarding intermittent failure of supply. The areas affected were the upper part of the village of Rudgwick, Kingsfold, and the area between Roffey Corner and Faygate.

The number of dwelling-houses connected to the Council's mains, at the end of the year, was 4,685. This represents 71% of the houses in the District. Outside standpipes for the supply of properties are not permitted by the Council.

Regular samples of water from the mains, from all sources, are taken by the staff of the Health Department, and satisfactory reports were received throughout the year. In all, 423 water samples were submitted to the Christ's Hospital Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year, this figure including both main supplies and wells serving dwelling houses and farms.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of Notices served under the Public Health Act:

Formal.....	8
Informal.....	143

Number of Notices complied with:

Formal.....	7
Informal.....	125

Inspections etc.

Complaints received.....	82
Miscellaneous Inspections.....	767
Re-inspections.....	289

Workshops.

Number on Register.....	109

(1). Bakehouses:

Number on Register.....	20
Inspections.....	29
Defects found.....	1
Defects remedied.....	1

(2). Laundries:

Inspections.....	3

Other Workshops:

Inspections.....	5
Defects found.....	-
Defects remedied.....	-

Movable Dwellings:

Inspections.....	19

Fried Fish Shops.

Inspections.....	-

Public House Conveniences.

Inspections.....	-

Infectious Disease.

Visits of enquiry.....	71
Rooms disinfected.....	42
Books disinfected.....	-

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919:

Number of premises visited.....	54
Total number of visits.....	79
Number of baits put down.....	-

Shops:

Number of shops inspected.....	57
Number of visits paid.....	62
Absence of W.C.....	-
W.C's provided.....	-
Insufficient heating.....	-
Heating supplied.....	-
Misc. defects found.....	4
Misc. defects remedied.....	-
No. of preliminary notices served....	4
" " " " " " complied with	4

Shops (Cont).

No. of statutory notices served.....	-
No. of statutory notices complied with.....	-

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

No. of visits in connection with vermin.....	14
No. of Council Houses infested with bed bugs..	2
No. of Private Houses infested with bed bugs..	3
No. of Council Houses disinfested.....	2
No. of Private Houses disinfested.....	3

Housing:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1). a. Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	341
b. No. of inspections made for the purpose..	389
(2). a. No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	36
b. No. of inspections made for the purpose..	99
(3). Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	39
(4). No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	216

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	142

Housing (Cont).

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a). Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(i) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 26

(ii) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices:-

(a). By Owners..... 18

(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners. -

(b). Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-

(a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 8

(ii) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a). By Owners..... 8

(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners. -

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a).(i)No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 1

(ii)No. of families dwelling therein..... 1

(iii)No. of persons dwelling therein..... 11

(b). No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 1

(c).(i)No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... -

(ii)No. of persons concerned in such cases..... -

(d). No. of formal notices to abate overcrowding served..... -

(e). No. of notices complied with..... -

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1). Milk Supply.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Visits of inspection.....	276
Number registered.....	363
Wholesale:-	
Tuberculin Tested.....	25
Accredited.....	93
Pasteurized.....	-
Others.....	245
Retail:-	
Tuberculin Tested.....	2
Accredited.....	7
Pasteurized.....	2
Others.....	78

Number of Notices served under Milk & Dairies Order, 1926:-

(a). Statutory.....	2
(b). Informal.....	55

Number of Notices complied with:-

(a). Statutory.....	2
(b). Informal.....	52

(2). Meat and Other Foods.

In January, 1940, a Central Slaughterhouse was opened in Horsham by the Ministry of Food. Since that time there has been no slaughtering in the Horsham R.D.

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MGC.
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